

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 4, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application, of which claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Claims 9-19 are withdrawn from consideration. Claim 20 is newly added. It is respectfully submitted that the presently pending claims recite allowable subject matter.

The objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(4) is respectfully traversed.

Submitted herewith are replacement drawing sheets incorporating changes to Figures 6 and 8-11. Specifically, in Figure 6, the lead line for reference numeral 362 is corrected to 360 for consistency with Figures 4 and 5. In Figure 8, the reference numeral 340 is changed to 400 for consistency with Figure 7 and the unreferenced arrow 434 is deleted. In Figure 9, the duplicate use of the reference numeral 456 is corrected. In Figure 10, the reference numerals 456, 458, and 464 are changed to 455, 461, and 466 respectively to conflicts in other figures and the specification. In Figure 11, the reference numerals 456, 458, and 464 are changed to 455, 461, and 466 respectively for consistency with Figure 10.. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The objection to the specification for informalities is respectfully traversed.

Paragraphs 0020, 0031, 0033, 0039, 0041, 0043, 0045-50, 0056, 0058, and 0059 have been amended as necessary for consistency with the corrections to the drawings and also to correct clerical errors. No new matter is added.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a cable connector including “a connector housing having a cavity for receiving a contact along an axis, said cavity having a protrusion therein, said protrusion including a twisting surface, and said protrusion extending through the axis so that, as said contact is inserted into said cavity along said axis, said contact is deflected by said protrusion until said contact moves past said protrusion into a locked position”.

More specifically, claim 1 recites that the contact is deflected by the protrusion until the contact moves past the protrusion into a locked position.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, though it may be considered broadly written, is nevertheless a definite claim and would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art.. Moreover, the Examiner’s interpretation of claim 1 is consistent with the language of claim 1.

Claims 2-8 depend from independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 112 rejection of claims 1-8 be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 1 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Goto (U.S. Patent No. 5,910,031) is respectfully traversed.

Goto describes a wire to board connector that includes a housing (50) having a top side (52) a bottom side (54). A plurality of contact receiving cavities (56) extend through the housing (50). A latching arm (58) extends from the top side (52) through the cavity (56) and has a projection (60) along its lower end. Each cavity (56) has two slots (62) that have chamfered surfaces (64) leading into the slots (62) from the top side (52). The slots (62) extend from the top side (52) of the housing through to a shelf (66). A hole (68) extends through the shelf (68). The projection (60) is received within a window (38) to latch a terminal (20) in place within the cavity (56).

Claim 1 recites a cable connector including “a connector housing having a cavity for receiving a contact along an axis, said cavity having a protrusion therein, said protrusion including a twisting surface, and said protrusion extending through the axis so that, as said contact is inserted into said cavity along said axis, said contact is deflected by said protrusion until said contact moves past said protrusion into a locked position”.

It is respectfully submitted that Goto neither describes nor suggests the apparatus recited in claim 1. Specifically, Goto neither describes nor suggests a protrusion that includes a twisting surface. Rather, Goto describes a projection at the end of a latching arm. The projection is neither described nor shown as having a twisting surface.

Accordingly, claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Goto.

Claims 5-7 depend from independent claim 1. When the recitations of claims 5-7 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent claims 5-7 likewise are patentable over Goto.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102(b) rejection of claims 1 and 5-7 be withdrawn.

The objection to claims 2-4 and 8 is respectfully traversed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 2-4 and 8. Claims 2-4 and 8 depend from independent claim 1 which is submitted to be patentable as indicated above.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection to claims 2-4 and 8 be withdrawn.

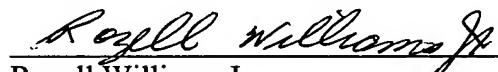
With respect to newly added claim 20, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited art describes or suggests a cable connector including a connector housing having a body section formed with a shroud at an end thereof, that is coupled to the body section through a

joining section, the body section defining a cavity for receiving a contact along an axis, the cavity having a protrusion therein, and the protrusion extending through the axis so that, as the contact is inserted into the cavity along the axis, the contact is deflected by the protrusion until the contact moves past the protrusion into a locked position. Specifically, none of the cited art describes or suggests a housing having a body section formed with a shroud coupled to the body section through a joining section.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 is patentable over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached replacement sheets of drawings includes changes to Figures 6 and 8-11. Replacement sheet 4 replaces original sheet 4 including changes to Figure 6. In Figure 6, the lead line for reference numeral 362 is corrected to 360 for consistency with Figures 4 and 5.

Replacement sheet 5 replaces original sheet 5 including changes to Figure 8. In Figure 8, the reference numeral 340 is changed to 400 for consistency with Figure 7. The unreferenced arrow 434 is deleted.

Replacement sheet 6 replaces original sheet 6 including changes to Figure 9. In Figure 9, the duplicate use of the reference numeral 456 is corrected.

Replacement sheet 7 replaces original sheet 7 including changes to Figure 10. In Figure 10, the reference numerals 456, 458, and 464 are changed to 455, 461, and 466 respectively to conflicts in other figures and the specification.

Replacement sheet 8 replaces original sheet 8 including changes to Figure 11. In Figure 11, the reference numerals 456, 458, and 464 are changed to 455, 461, and 466 respectively for consistency with Figure 10.

These corrections add no new matter.

Attachments: 5 Replacement Sheets, 5 redline markups.



4 of 11
Applicant: John Wesley Hall Serial No: new app.
Filed: herewith Dkt. No: 18045 (20958-00055)
Title: CABLE CONNECTOR
Dean D. Small, Armstrong Teasdale LLP
One Metropolitan Square, St. Louis, MO 63102 (314) 621-5070

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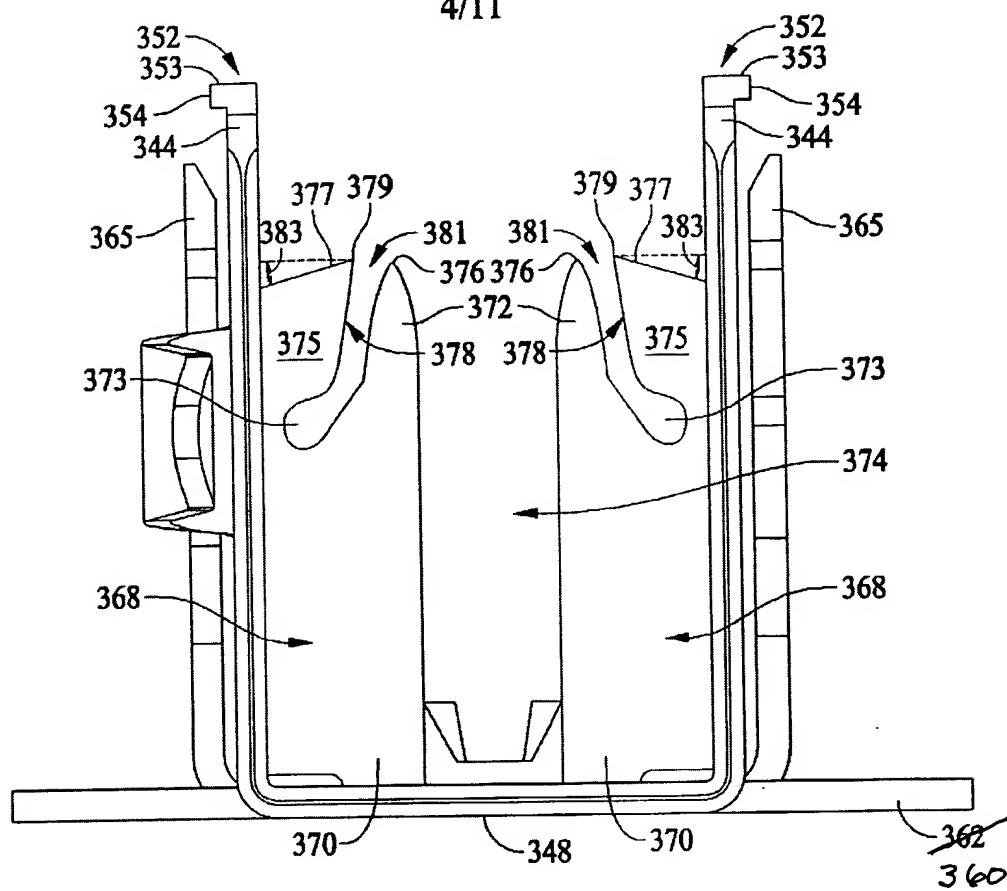


FIG. 6

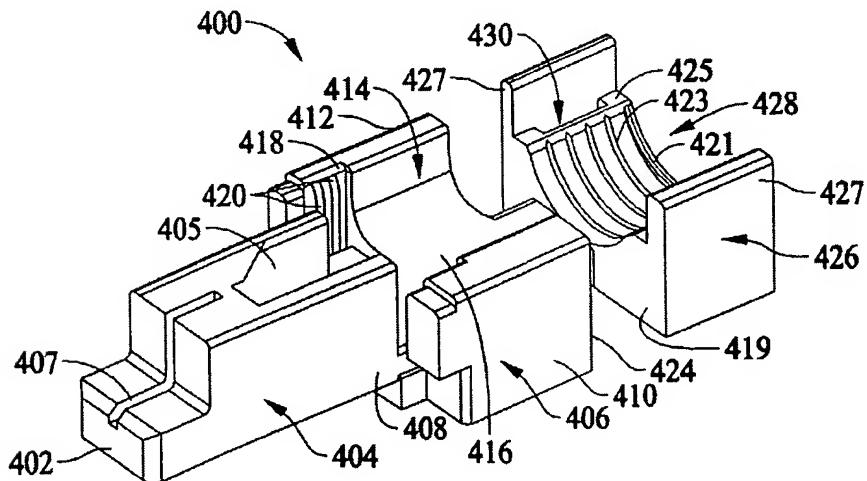


FIG. 7

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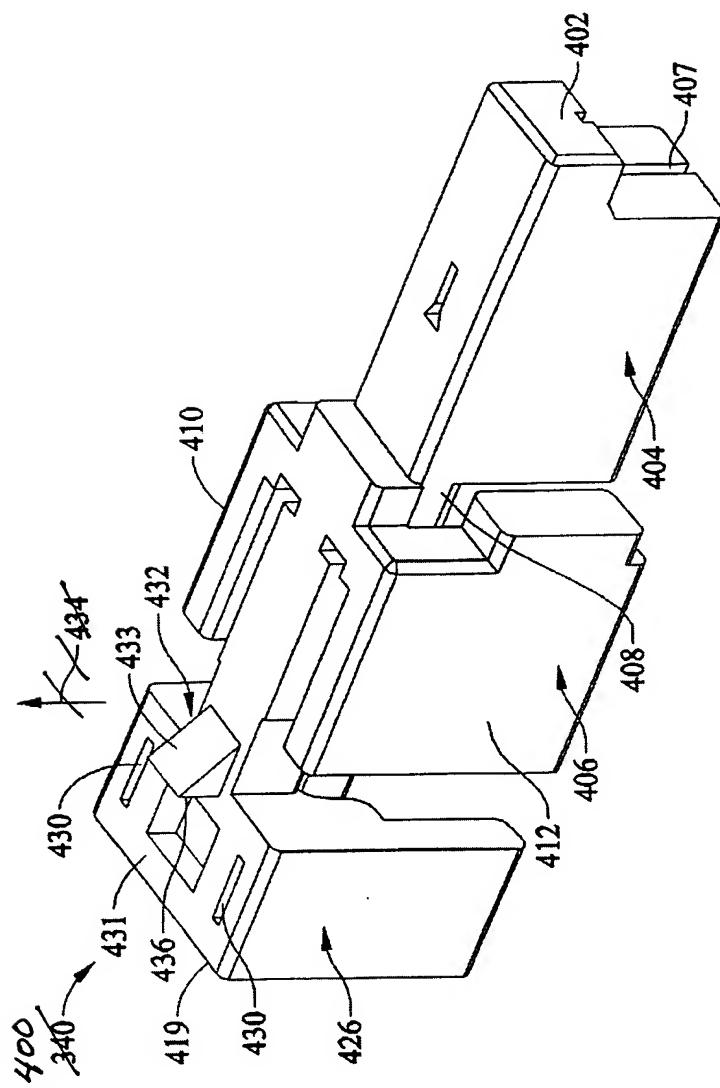


FIG. 8

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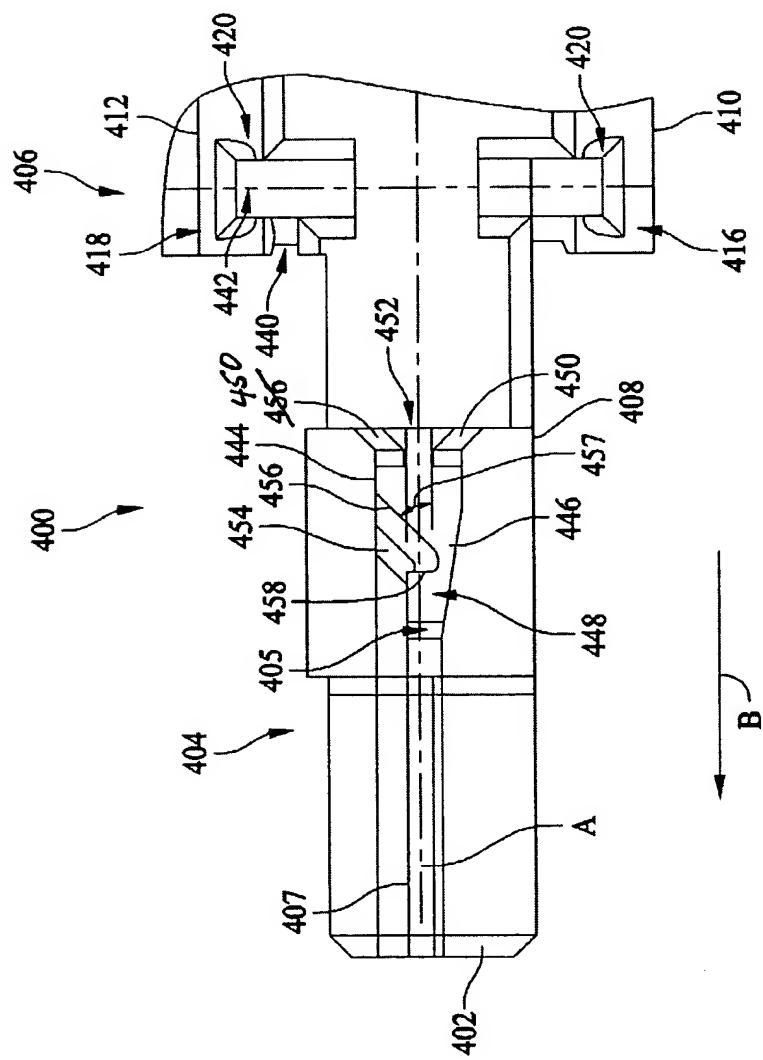


FIG. 9

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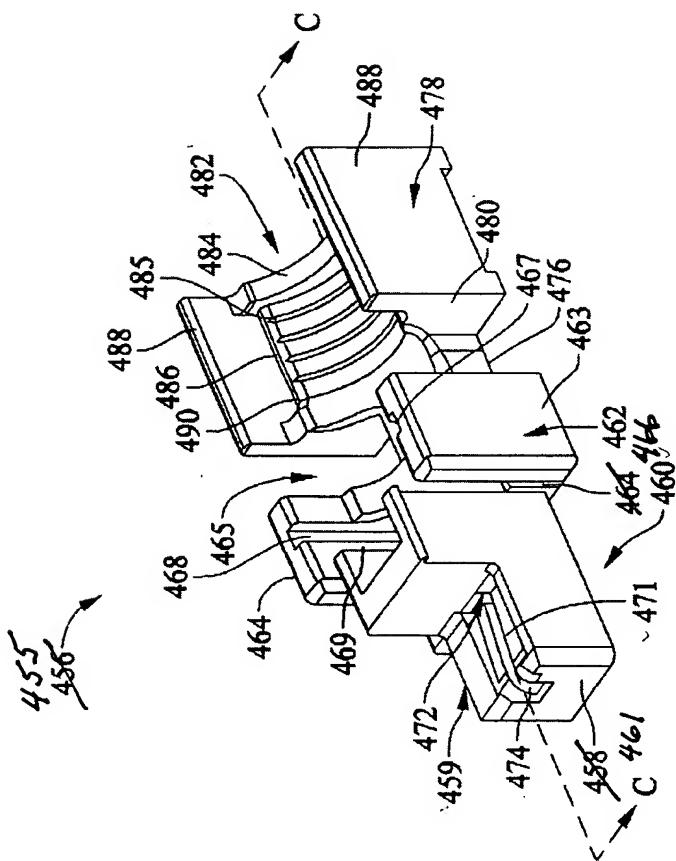


FIG. 10

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8/11

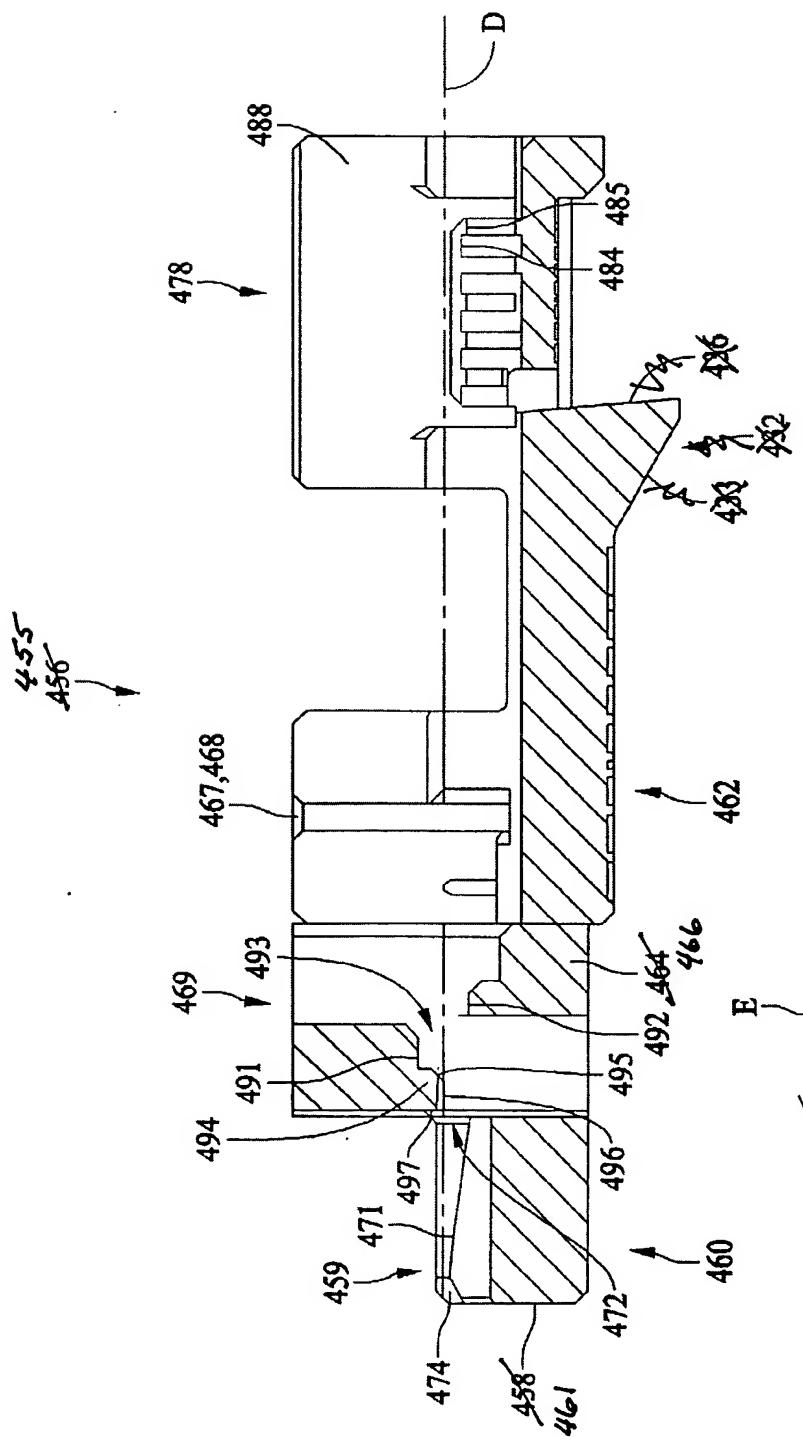


FIG. 11